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MESSAGES FROM THE MARSH

The E-Newsletter of the MEADOWLANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTER, a New Jersey Meadowlands Commission Facility operated by Ramapo College of New Jersey
July 2006

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Education News: Staff Activities



In addition to the day to day operations of the Center, in June staff represented the Center throughout the state and in one instance, the nation.

Dr. Angela Cristini, presented a paper and poster on Project SEE (Senior Environmental Experiences) at "The Longevity Revolution - How Science Centers Engage an Older America" June 18-20, 2006 sponsored by the National Science Foundation, The American Association for the Advancement of Science, AARP, and the SPRY Foundation.

Dr. Victoria Madden, continued her work as a member of the New Jersey State Science Assessment Committee, meeting with colleagues to review and revise questions for NJ ASK.

Joe Porrovecchio, spent much of the month traveling throughout NY & NJ to promote awareness of the Sustainable Meadowlands Resource institute.

Jean Balutanski, completed work on a grant application to the National Science Foundation to further the activities and scope of MarshAccess.

MarshAccess

As part of our mission to work with Meadowlands district and other community based organizations *serving adults with disabilities* to create new programs at the MEC, incorporating specialized adaptations and assistive technologies that would allow these individuals to participate, the following groups recently attended programs at the MEC:

Bergen County Special Services District

Transitions Program

Ages: 18-21

Location: Wood-Ridge, Bergen County

Note: Attended MEC as a self-guided group under the instruction of their teacher, and volunteered on a project within the Center.

Nutley Township

Ages: Young Adults

Location: Nutley, Essex County

Sustainable Meadowlands Resource Institute: Resource Report



The Sustainable Meadowlands Resource Institute is pleased to announce the Resource Report, the E- Newsletter for SMRI.

[To sign-up to receive this newsletter, please click here](#)

Programs for Kids: July Summer Camps in the Meadowlands



During the month of July, kids from ages 6 to 13 will take part in the third annual Summer Camp in the Meadowlands. The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's Meadowlands Environment Center offers environmentally themed week-long summer programs, each designed to explore the estuaries of the Hackensack River.

Marsh Explorers

When: July 10-14

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Ages: Entering Grades 1 & 2

Cost: \$100 per child

This Marsh Explorers session is closed, registration capacity has been met.

Hopping Through Habitats

When: July 10-14

Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Ages: Entering Grades 3 & 4

Cost: \$150 per child

Upstream, Downstream

When: July 24-28

Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Ages: Entering Grades 5 & 6

Cost: \$150 per child

This Upstream, Downstream session is closed, registration capacity has been met.

Water, Water Everywhere

When: July 24-28

Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Ages: Entering Grades 7 & 8

Cost: \$150 per child

This session has been cancelled, space is available in the August session, please inquire.

[For detailed summer camp information, please click here.](#)

Programs for Older Adults: July Events

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Every Tuesday, starting in June and ending in September, afternoon or evening programs are scheduled that will intrigue, energize and revitalize your spirit.

All programs are free of charge, thanks to a supporting grant from the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission.

*All July programs have reached capacity, please inquire about our waiting list.*

### Programs offered this month:

#### **Dance, Dance, Dance**

When: Tuesday, July 11

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Note: Pre-registration is required.

#### **Sense-ational Memory**

When: Tuesday, July 18

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Note: Pre-registration is required.

#### **Jersey Sound**

When: Tuesday, July 25

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Note: Pre-registration is required.

[For detailed information on and to register online for the Summer Senior Series, please click here](#)

### MEC Network: Nature Program Cooperative

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July NPC Event

Boat Trip Through Bergen County

Hosted by: Hackensack Riverkeeper

Location: River Barge Marina

When: July 19th, *rain date July 20th*

Time: 5:30 - 8:00pm

General Cost: \$20

Member Cost: \$10

Note: Pre-Registration required. Ages 15 years and older please.

Reservations: 201-968-0808

Join us for a Hackensack River pontoon boat trip through eastern Bergen County. Fully narrated by seasoned captains Bill Sheehan and Hugh Carola, you will learn about the past, present and future of the region and the role and recovery of the eco-system in this highly urbanized environmental oasis.

[To learn more about the Nature Program Cooperative and these programs, please click here](#)

MEC Network: The New Jersey Watershed Institute

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MAKING THE WATERSHED CONNECTION: An Interactive Conference for New Jersey Educators was held June 27 & 28th.

Workshops, Exhibits and the keynote address was held on the 27th at the Meadowlands Environment Center.

The Watershed Partnership for New Jersey and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection were the organizers of this third annual two-day interactive conference for educators.

Sessions explored New Jersey's dynamic watersheds and connected educators with regional resources, curriculum materials and more. Field trips on the second day allowed participants to discover the beauty and complexities of the watershed and more ways to teach our future leaders about earth's most precious resource - water. Professional development credits were available.

[To learn more about the activities held during this conference](#)

## MEC Network: The Girl Scout Council of Bergen County

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As Bergen County's premier organization for girls, the Girl Scout Council of Bergen County serves more than 13,000 girls ages 4 through 17 from 61 municipalities.

We are pleased to announce that the third annual Meadowlands 5K Run/Walk and Interactive Health Fair will take place on Sunday, October 22nd at the Meadowlands Environment Center.

The day-long program consists of three distinct events; a USATF certified 5K Run, A Pink Ribbon Breast Cancer Awareness Walk and a unique Interactive Health Fair. Once again, this year's Meadowlands 5K will serve as the kick-off event benefiting a year-long series of Girl Scout programs designed specifically to promote healthy choices and healthy lifestyles among their diverse population of girl members.

NJMC: Art in the Flyway Gallery

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### Seeing Through My Eyes

The paintings of Chris Kappmeier.

### Public reception

Saturday, July 8rd  
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm  
Meadowlands Environment Center lobby

[To learn more about this month's NJMC Flyway Gallery event, please click here](#)

## NJMC: Boat Cruises in July

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Available Dates

July 10

July 11

July 12

July 27

July 28

July 29 - *this Saturday morning trip departs at 8:00am*

Departing at 5:30 (unless otherwise noted) from the River Barge Park and Marina in Carlstadt.

The suggested minimum donation is \$15 per person. Pre-registration is required. To register or for more information, please call (201) 460-4640. Special cruises are available for educational, civic and other groups. All boats are fully equipped and piloted by Coast Guard qualified captains.

[For more information on the NJMC pontoon boat program, please click here...](#)

NJMC: Canoe Trip in July

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#### **July 15th**

8:00 am

*Launching at Saw Mill Creek*

We supply all the equipment and give you helpful tips before setting out on the water.

Canoes are provided at a cost of \$15 per person. Pre- registration is required. Groups are welcome. For more information or to book a tour, please call (201) 460-4640.

[To learn more about the NJMC canoe program, please click here](#)

### **Eco-triathlon: Congratulations**

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Thank you to the 42 athletes who participated in the inaugural Meadowlands Liberty Convention and Visitors Bureau Eco-Triathlon.

Congratulations to:

Bill Wenrich of Morgantown, PA who finished first among the men with an event time of 1:18:26

Melissa Kern of Hopatcong, NJ who finished first among the women with an event time of 1:23:36

[To view all event results, please click here](#)

Meadowfest

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Thank you to all of the exhibitors, vendors, sponsors, volunteers, educational participants and the general public who participated in Meadowfest.

Hope to see you next year!

**Quick Links...**

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- [MEC Website](#)
- [MEC Schedule of Events Registration](#)
- [MEC School Program Registration](#)
- [New Jersey Meadowlands Commission](#)
- [Ramapo College of New Jersey](#)
- [Meadowlands Conservation Trust](#)

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